

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01652 121357Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----059411 121401Z /41

P R 121200Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3487
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T CONAKRY 1652

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, EFIS, KS, GV
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROK CONTACT WITH GUINEA

REF: RABAT 4975

1. ACCORDING TO FAIRLY RELIABLE ARAB DIPLOMAT IN CONAKRY, AN INTERMEDIARY AT ROK'S BEHEST APPROACHED MAMADI KEITA (GUINEAN MINISTER OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION DOMAIN) ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF TIE BETWEEN ROK AND GUINEA DURING KEITA'S VISIT TO MOROCCO EARLIER THIS YEAR. FISHING RIGHTS MAY HAVE BEEN PRINCIPAL CONCERN. KEITA REPORTEDLY CHECKED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE ON RETURN TO CONAKRY, AND TOURE GAVE GREEN LIGHT TO HEAR WHAT DEALS ROK MIGHT PROPOSE.

2. THEN GUINEA'S SEIZURE OF TWO SOUTH KOREAN FISHING BOATS FOR POACHING IN GUINEAN TERRITORIAL WATERS DURING EARLY SUMMER SPOILED THE INITIATIVE. TOURE WAS PARTICULARLY IRATE WHEN THE FIRST BOAT ESCAPED AFTER THE SOUTH KOREAN CREW GOT THREE GUINEAN GUARDS DRUNK, BEAT THEM, AND DUMPED THEM CLAD IN LIFE JACKETS INTO THE ATLANTIC SIX MILES OFFSHORE. GUARDS ARE STILL HOSPITALIZED. NEGOTIATIONS

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TO FREE THE SECOND BOAT SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK PLACE BETWEEN GOG AND EMISSARY FROM SOUTH KOREAN FISHING INTERESTS MR. F.B. TURAY, MEMBER OF SIERRA LEONIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT OF SIERRA LEONE'S AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. TURAY'S INTELLIGENT AND ATTRACTIVE WIFE IS GUINEAN AND REPORTEDLY A CLOSE ENOUGH RELATIVE OF SEKOU TOURE TO HAVE PERSUADED TOURE, AS OF LATE

AUGUST, TO RELEASE THE BOAT AND CLOSE THE FILE IN RETURN FOR 50,000 U.S. DOLLAR PAYMENT. BANK TRANSFER TECHNICALITIES WERE ALLEGEDLY ONLY HITCH REMAINING, AS OF THAT DATE. BOAT REMAINS IN PORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, HOWEVER (ALONG WITH FOUR GREEK BOATS, FOR RELEASE OF WHICH GOG IS ASKING US\$200,000 A PIECE).

3. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TURAY HOPES TO INDUCE SEKOU TOURE TO PERMIT AS MANY AS 16 SOUTH KOREAN TRAWLERS TO FISH LEGALLY IN GUINEA'S RICH WATERS. PROPOSED CONTRACT WOULD GIVE GUINEA 25 PERCENT OF CATCH. TURAY REPRESENTS OYANG FISHERIES LTD., BASED IN LAS PALMAS, SPAIN, AND DAI-HO INDUSTRIAL COMPANY, LTD. SEOUL AND LAS PALMAS.

4. COMMENT: COOPERATIVE FISHING OR COMMERCIAL VENTURES SEEM TO BE DISTINCT POSSIBILITY BETWEEN ROK FIRMS AND GUINEA. BUT TO GO MUCH FURTHER -- FOR EXAMPLE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS -- WOULD BE SURPRISING IN VIEW OF NORTH KOREA'S FAIRLY SOLID POSITION HERE. NORTH KOREAN PERSONNEL CHOREOGRAPHED AND STAGED GOG'S NOVEMBER 22 STADIUM FESTIVITIES LAST YEAR ON ANNIVERSARY OF REPULSION OF PORTUGUESE-BACKED 1970 INVASION. NORTH KOREANS HAVE TRAINED GUINEA'S MILITARY BAND AND HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN marginally INVOLVED IN OTHER MILITARY TRAINING. GOG'S MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS PROBABLY FEEL
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IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY WITH NORTH KOREA'S HARD ANTI-IMPERIALIST BUT RELATIVELY NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT LEFTISM.

5. EMBASSY OF JAPAN AND ITS CHARGE NOBUYOSHI KIMURA WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE APPROPRIATE FACILITATOR THAN U.S. (REFTEL PARA TWO) IF ANY MORE FACILITATING GETS UNDERWAY. END COMMENT.
MAINLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FISHING RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CONAKR01652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770329-1000
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770975/aaaacplpc.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d168648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 RABAT 4975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1312353
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ROK CONTACT WITH GUINEA
TAGS: PDIP, EFIS, KS, GV
To: RABAT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d168648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009